United Nations S/PV.6494

Security Council

Sixty-sixth year

Provisional

6494th meeting

Thursday, 10 March 2011, 10 a.m.

New York

President:	Mr. Li Baodong	(China)
Members:	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Mr. Barbalić
	Brazil	Mrs. Viotti
	Colombia	Mr. Osorio
	France	Mr. Araud
	Gabon	Mr. Messone
	Germany	Mr. Wittig
	India	Mr. Hardeep Singh Puri
	Lebanon	Mr. Salam
	Nigeria	Mr. Amieyeofori
	Portugal	Mr. Moraes Cabral
	Russian Federation	Mr. Churkin
	South Africa	Mr. Sangqu
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Bellingham
	United States of America	Mr. Dunn

Agenda

The situation in Somalia

Comprehensive strategy for the realization of peace and security in Somalia

Letter dated 3 March 2011 from the Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (S/2011/114)

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room U-506.

The meeting was called to order at 10.15 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in Somalia

Comprehensive strategy for the realization of peace and security in Somalia

Letter dated 3 March 2011 from the Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (S/2011/114)

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): Under rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I should like to invite the representatives of Denmark, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Norway, the Philippines, Qatar, the Republic of Korea, Somalia, Spain, the Sudan, Sweden, Tajikistan, Thailand, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, the United Arab Emirates and the United Republic of Tanzania to participate in this meeting.

On behalf of the Council, I welcome the Prime Minister of the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia, His Excellency Mr. Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed, and request the Protocol Officer to escort him to his seat at the Council table.

Mr. Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed, Prime Minister of the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia, was escorted to a seat at the Council table.

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): Under rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite Mr. Augustine P. Mahiga, Special Representative of the Secretary-General and head of the United Nations Political Office for Somalia, to participate in this meeting. On behalf of the Council, I wish to welcome Mr. Mahiga, who is joining today's meeting via video teleconference from Mogadishu.

Under rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite Mr. Boubacar Diarra, Special Representative of the Chairperson of the Commission of the African Union for Somalia, to participate in this meeting.

Under rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite Mr. Pedro Serrano, Acting Head of the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations, to participate in this meeting.

I recognize the presence at this meeting of the Secretary-General, His Excellency Mr. Ban Ki-moon, and the Minister for Africa of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, His Excellency Mr. Henry Bellingham MP.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

I wish to draw the attention of Council members to document S/2011/114, which contains a letter dated 3 March 2011 from the Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, containing a concept paper on the item under consideration.

The question of Somalia involves the peace and security of the Horn of Africa, the African continent and the whole world. In recent years, thanks to the joint efforts of Somalia and the international community, and the United Nations in particular, progress has been made towards the settlement of the question of Somalia. But formidable challenges remain. This open debate of the Security Council is aimed at urging the international community to give greater and more sustained attention to the question of Somalia and to formulate and implement a comprehensive strategy for the realization of peace, security and development in Somalia.

I now invite the Secretary-General, His Excellency Mr. Ban Ki-moon, to take the floor.

The Secretary-General: I thank Ambassador Li Baodong of China for convening this meeting and for rallying the international community to the cause of Somalia during this critical period. I wish him all the best as President of the Security Council. I appreciate his leadership.

I would also like to thank His Excellency Prime Minister Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed of Somalia for his participation in today's meeting. I would also like to recognize the participation of His Excellency Minister Henry Bellingham of the United Kingdom, as well as that of Mr. Boubacar Diarra, Special Representative for Somalia of the Commission of the African Union, whom I thank for all his contributions.

I am pleased that we are able to have this meeting with the participation of my Special Representative, Mr. Augustine Mahiga, who is joining us by videolink from Somalia. I am grateful for his contributions and those of the staff of the United Nations Political Office

for Somalia directed at keeping the political process moving. I also thank our staff at the United Nations Office in Nairobi and the United Nations Support Office for the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) for working so tirelessly and for assisting in the medical evacuation of troops, especially in the past few weeks.

The situation in Somalia requires urgent attention. The military gains of the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) and AMISOM are fragile. The humanitarian situation is dire, and violence continues to rage. And given the calls for good governance and a decent life in North Africa and the Middle East, public expectations are likely to grow in Somalia, too. If we act now, we can consolidate recent gains and set Somalia on a more promising course.

In recent heavy fighting, dozens of brave peacekeepers of AMISOM from Burundi and Uganda made the ultimate sacrifice in the cause of peace. There are also rising numbers of civilian casualties. I have spoken with Presidents Nkurunziza and Museveni to express my gratitude for their continued commitment to Somalia. I also offered my condolences to the families of the victims.

The TFG and AMISOM have succeeded in expanding the line of control in Mogadishu. The TFG and its ally, Ahlu Sunnah Wal Jama'a, have opened new fronts in southern Somalia and taken control of major towns previously held by insurgent groups. We must help them to sustain these gains in order to restore security and deliver basic services, humanitarian aid and support for recovery and reconstruction. Such improvements for the people of Somalia and the thousands of internally displaced persons in zones controlled by the TFG are critical to sustaining the hard-won military gains.

AMISOM and the TFG forces are delivering on the military front. AMISOM would be even more effective if it had more resources, including helicopters, and support for intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance. The international community must keep its end of the bargain. There are critical gaps in the United Nations support package to AMISOM and significant shortfalls of military assets and equipment. I appeal to Member States to increase their contributions to the United Nations Trust Fund for AMISOM and to reimburse contingent-owned equipment and troop-contributing countries.

We must also enable AMISOM to reach its full authorized strength. Building a viable force is as much about troop numbers as it is about the assets that support them. This would enable the TFG to establish greater space under its control, foster direct links between the Government and its citizens, and promote political dialogue and reconciliation. It would also make it possible for the United Nations to expand its presence in Somalia.

At the same time, Transitional Federal Institutions (TFIs) have to rise to the challenge on the political and governance fronts, and in achieving stability. Clear political objectives must frame the military objectives. The TFIs collectively have an opportunity to consolidate their authority in the areas under their control, but this opportunity may not last. The TFIs must find unity of purpose. That spirit should be the driving force behind the talks on the end of the current transitional period and the next chapter for Somalia. Disagreements on the transition could have a negative impact on the security situation and stabilization efforts, including the fate of newly trained members of the Somalia forces.

Moreover, any extension of the transition period must be earned. The focus should be on fulfilling outstanding tasks for the transition, including the constitutional process. Constitution-building is paramount because it provides a platform for national reconciliation. The process would finally allow Somalis to choose their own fate, their own framework for governance, and their own leaders. This exercise should be open and inclusive. My Special Representative, Mr. Mahiga, has been working to facilitate consensus on these issues. He has also been working closely with the various clan and religious leaders to expand the reconciliation process, as stipulated in the Djibouti Agreements.

Piracy off the coast of Somalia remains a grave and growing menace. The international community has mobilized to stamp out piracy and bring the perpetrators to justice. I welcome improved information-sharing and coordination, as well as the deployment of significant military and other assets. But attacks are increasing in number, and the pirates are expanding their geographic reach. The recent report (S/2011/30, annex) of my Special Adviser on Legal Issues related to Piracy off the Coast of Somalia, Mr. Jack Lang, highlights the need for urgent action.

We must forge an integrated response based on three pillars: deterrence, development, and security.

The United Nations Political Office for Somalia, together with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the International Maritime Organization, recently revitalized the Kampala process, a mechanism for dialogue that brings together the TFG, Somaliland, Puntland and other regional Somali authorities. I hope this important forum will continue to meet throughout the year.

I am also concerned about the drought unfolding in Somalia. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) reports that drought has displaced some 50,000 people during the past two months. Many are moving to urban areas in search of help. In the Hiraan region of Central Somalia, 70 per cent of the population is in crisis. Food has not been distributed there since the World Food Programme was forced to suspend its operations there in January 2010.

In addition to drought, hostilities are forcing people to flee their homes and villages. According to UNHCR, every week for the past few weeks some 2,500 Somalis have been registered in the overcrowded Dadaab camps in Kenya. Before the fighting and drought, that number was less than 400. Mogadishu reached a terrible milestone last year when 7,600 people were reported to have weapons-related injuries — the highest toll in more than a decade. That disturbing trend has continued this year, with more than 1,000 weapons-related injuries reported in the city's hospitals since January.

This year's humanitarian appeal for Somalia seeks $529 million for urgent needs. As of last month, only one-quarter of that amount had been funded. The United Nations Emergency Relief Coordinator has allocated $15 million from the Central Emergency Response Fund. An additional $50 million has been allocated from pooled funding to respond to the drought. But if the traditional long rains fail in April, the situation will deteriorate even further. Inadequate funding is not the only obstacle; we also lack access to areas of conflict and insecurity where needs are greatest.

Somalia urgently needs our help. It faces levels of violence, damaging weather conditions and insecurity that would shake even strong countries. AMISOM and the TFG have made some progress, but they need more support. If we reinforce the military gains, provide humanitarian relief and achieve political progress, we can set Somalia on course to greater stability and peace. If we fail, we risk a growing humanitarian crisis, a deteriorating security situation, and a worsening threat to regional peace and stability.

I welcome the Security Council's decision to authorize more troops for Somalia, as well as the Council's focus on the situation today. But AMISOM and the TFG need more than authorized troop levels. They need actual troops, equipment and enhanced capacity. And the Somali people need to see real, tangible improvement. They need humanitarian assistance, political stability and a constitutional process that offers hope.

Let us do all we can to make that possible. By working together and thinking ahead, we can establish the conditions in which Somalis can steer their country out of violence and into a future free from want and free from fear.

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): I thank Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon for his statement.

I now give the floor to His Excellency Mr. Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed, Prime Minister of the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia.

Mr. Mohamed (Somalia): It gives me a great pleasure to appear before this body today to report about the success that the Transitional Federal Institutions (TFI), including my Government, have achieved during their first 100 days in office, as well as the challenges ahead as we bring to a close the seventh year of the transitional federal system of governance in our nation. I come before the Council today to give an update on the progress we have made, the challenges we face and the strategies that we hope to employ to mitigate those challenges.

As I mentioned in January (see S/PV.6467) and as stipulated in the road map, my Government's five main priorities are to improve security, enhance reconciliation, complete the transitional tasks — including the completion of our constitutional process — address humanitarian crises and promote good governance.

Let me begin by expressing my heartfelt gratitude and sincere appreciation for the ongoing support to Somalia from the United Nations, the African Union (AU) and the international community. That

unwavering support is critical to our efforts to rid Somalia of its sworn enemy, the Al-Shabaab, which is part of a vast global terrorist network. In particular, we are especially grateful to the young men and women who make up the AU troops. Hailing from Uganda and Burundi, they are sacrificing their lives for Somalia. We salute and mourn those who paid the ultimate price. We are eternally grateful for their priceless sacrifice.

Let me state in no uncertain terms that my Government is the Council's committed and credible partner in defeating our two common enemies, namely, Al-Shabaab and lawlessness — that is, piracy. Our troops and the forces of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) are currently making tangible progress in reclaiming large portions of territory from the enemy throughout the country, including the nation's capital, Mogadishu, and its surroundings, as shown in the map I have provided. As we mobilize the Somali people behind these security successes and forge ahead on our explicit road map in the next few months, we are confident that we will meet our objectives in bringing most of southern Somalia under the Transitional Federal Government (TFG). It is our view that by meeting that objective we will be that much closer to attaining the transitional tasks set out in our Federal Charter.

We are in the first line of defence against two evils, namely, the scourge of piracy and the plague of terrorism. We need to defeat them at the source, which requires cooperation and collaboration between us and the international community. Fighting these twin evils requires moral fortitude and a strong political will from us, the Somalis, and strong commitment and support from the international community. We have to understand that lawlessness is both the root cause and the breeding ground for both terrorism and piracy, coupled with poverty and unemployment and permeated by fanaticism and religious indoctrination.

We recently saw the human face of piracy when four innocent Americans were killed by ruthless pirates. Our heart goes out to their loved ones. The scourge of piracy cannot be defeated on the high seas. Its solution lies in bringing back the rule of law to Somalia and helping coastal communities to develop alternative livelihoods. Moreover, not only are these two ills working in tandem, but they are learning from each other. It will not surprise us if Al-Qaida agents in Somalia start hijacking tankers in the high seas and using them as deadly weapons, as they did in September 2001. Why bother with a small plane when you can capture a tanker?

During the past 100 days, my new Government, comprised of 18 ministers who are able technocrats from within and outside the country, is changing the political landscape and earning the respect of our citizens and our partners in the international community. We are fully and forcefully engaged in implementing good governance to improve our capacity and to realize our national road map, which includes the following.

With regard to accountability and transparency in financial management, we have, for the first time, established measures that will enhance the collection of public revenues from both the seaport and the airport of Mogadishu, the two main revenue-generating Government services in the public sector, as well as the distribution of public funds. Since then public-revenue collections have improved significantly, in line with the annual State budget for 2011 approved by the Parliament and the audited accounts of 2010, which have been submitted to our international partners.

With regard to the anti-corruption taskforce, following more than 20 years of statelessness, corruption in Somalia has became endemic, with the pilfering of public funds being an activity undertaken shamelessly. Against that backdrop, the anti-corruption taskforce is an essential and necessary deterrent measure to end the abuse and misuse of public funds, goods and property. Members of my Cabinet and I are were the first signatories of these anti-corruption rules and procedures, so as to send the message that this Government has a zero-tolerance policy on corruption and the appalling practices of the past.

With regard to enhancing the delivery of services, it is essential to empower and rebuild the capacity of Government institutions so as to reach our citizens. Some of the successes achieved in that regard involve public safety and security, new or improved public health services, the opening of new schools, the installation of new street lights and cleaning and waste collection services.

With regard to the security sector, with improved street lighting and police patrols day and night, the Government-controlled areas of Mogadishu are a lot safer, as indicated by the growing nightlife in the streets. Another critical component of our security strategy involves the ongoing reform of the services.

These reform efforts are focused on providing the necessary logistics, tools and equipment, as well as paying salaries on time.

Let me emphasize the urgent need of deploying the additional 4,000 AU troops approved by the Security Council to reinforce the efforts to bring about peace and stability.

An equally important priority for my Government is the establishment of a credible and effective disarmament, demobilization and rehabilitation programme. After 20 years of continuous conflict, many of our youth have not experienced peaceful coexistence in their entire lives. Restoring their faith in society and Government and reintegrating them into their communities is a long-term task that we must initiate immediately. We have devised the means to welcome and assist a rising number of youth defectors from the ranks of Al-Shabaab. To that end, we are also searching for effective means to counter the soul-destroying radicalization efforts of the insurgent groups, not just in Somalia but also in diaspora communities around the world. That is absolutely critical if we are to win the hearts and minds of our youth and to secure their future.

Regarding the constitutional development process, in our quest to reform the TFG model, we have undertaken, with our international partners, a process that has produced a draft constitution. To expedite that further, we now have in place an independent constitutional commission, a parliamentary constitutional committee and a cabinet-level ministry that are hard at work coordinating and finalizing the draft constitution and achieving the necessary consensus within the Transitional Federal Institutions and the Somali public.

With regard to reconciliation and outreach, we all agree that reconciliation and conflict resolution at the local, regional and national levels are the cornerstone of peace and security in our nation. In that spirit, my Government continues to engage in and to facilitate the resolution of conflict through dialogue and peaceful means.

That is evidenced by the achievements of the two Cabinet-led missions to the central regions in the past 100 days. The first resolved the hot war between two clans in Galmudug and Puntland, and the second between clans in Galmudug and Himan and Heeb. Our agreement with Ahlu Sunnah Wal Jama'a is holding firm and is being implemented; and it will continue to be part and parcel of the current Government. Let me highlight again that the Ahlu Sunna Wal Jama'a and TFG forces are jointly conducting security operations in many parts of the country with a successful outcome.

Regarding humanitarian assistance, with the expanding security operations and a debilitating drought across the country, there has been a major increase in the number of internally displaced persons (IDPs). In Mogadishu alone, up to 80,000 IDPs have moved into Government-controlled areas. We appeal to the international community for urgent medical and food assistance to help the IDPs. For our part, in addition to the port and airport facilities in Mogadishu, we are opening up new corridors along our borders, particularly in the central and southern parts of the country.

As is clear from this summary of our road map, my Cabinet and I have the will and the commitment to rebuild State institutions so as to meet the basic requirements of our citizens. We are winning the hearts and minds of the Somali population. A recent study conducted by Mogadishu Media House, an independent local media organization, released this month shows that 75 per cent of the people surveyed in Mogadishu indicated strong displeasure with Al-Shabaab and its extremist ideology. Of the participants, 70 per cent recognized that the TFG is making a great effort to reach out to the regions and the opposition groups. Finally, 75 per cent rated AMISOM and the African Union forces as friends of the Somali people. That is clearly a far cry from the general public view only a few months earlier.

On transitional issues, the transitional period will end on 20 August. Although the seven-year term of the current TFG has had its ups and downs, some progress has been achieved. Nonetheless, I am here today to underpin our ongoing consultations as partners with a common interest in reaching a consensus on the post-transitional framework.

First and foremost, as confirmed by the Cabinet meeting in Mogadishu on 7 March, the executive branch has approved and adopted the following: first, the formal end of the TFG term on 20 August 2011, in accordance with the Charter; secondly, the election of the Speaker and the deputies to be held in July 2011; thirdly, the election of the President to be held in August 2011; fourthly, the new Government should be

given ample time to fulfil the remaining transitional tasks, including the ratification of the constitution and the establishment of the election commission; fifthly, parliamentary reform to commence immediately in line with the ongoing reform of the executive branch and the security sector; and sixthly, a caretaker Government to be appointed by the new leadership to move the country to permanent statehood.

In conclusion, let me reaffirm our commitment to our people and to the international community. I state before the Council that we will regain our land, our identity and our dignity from the extremists. We will not compromise the interests of our nation or the future of our children. We will do whatever it takes to regain our status as a State that protects its borders from enemies, foreign and domestic, ends all forms of international piracy, protects its citizens, and produces a nation at peace with itself and its neighbours.

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): I thank Prime Minister Mohamed for his statement.

I now give the floor to His Excellency Mr. Boubacar Diarra.

Mr. Diarra: On behalf of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, His Excellency Mr. Jean Ping, I thank you, Mr. President, for the invitation to brief the Council on the situation in Somalia and, in particular, to contribute to the debate on a comprehensive strategy for the realization of peace and security in Somalia. I also want to offer Mr. Jean Ping's regrets and apologies for his inability to personally join in today's debate. Chairperson Ping asked me to convey to you, Mr. President, his best wishes for success during your presidency of the Council.

Allow me to begin by reiterating the appreciation of the African Union to the President of the Council, the Secretary-General and all States members of the Security Council for the interest and commitment to addressing the situation in Somalia. The number and frequency of debates held on Somalia is a clear testament to that. Another eloquent testimony is the partnership between the United Nations and the African Union in the area of peace and security, and in addressing the situation in Somalia in particular. That partnership is yielding positive and tangible results. We appreciate and value the partnership.

Despite the Council's support and some positive results, the situation in Somalia remains challenging. I will begin with the political situation. With the current transitional arrangement coming to an end on 20 August and key transitional tasks, such as the adoption of a draft constitution, still outstanding, the political situation in Somalia is at a critical juncture.

In order to address the need for a post-transitional arrangement, the Assembly of the African Union, at its sixteenth ordinary session, endorsed the decision taken by the Assembly of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) at its extraordinary session on Somalia to extend the term of the Transitional Federal Parliament so as to allow for the remaining political dispensation to be handled by the people of Somalia. In line with that decision, on 3 February the Parliament passed a resolution extending its term for a further three years.

Together with IGAD and the United Nations Political Office for Somalia (UNPOS), we are channelling all efforts to implement the decision of the African Union Summit, in particular through, first, the conduct of elections for the Speaker of Parliament and the President; secondly, parliamentary reforms to enhance the legitimacy and inclusiveness of the Transitional Federal Parliament; and, thirdly, the establishment of a new political dispensation. Together with IGAD and UNPOS, we remain engaged in accompanying the process of adopting a new constitution for Somalia within the shortest possible time.

On the military front, over the past couple of weeks, Transitional Federal Government (TFG) forces, supported by troops of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) — which now has a strength of well over 8,000 soldiers — have changed the picture on the ground in Mogadishu. The TFG forces, supported by AMISOM troops, have taken control of key positions in north-west Mogadishu, including the former Ministry of Defence building, which had served as the main logistical and operational base of Al-Shabaab. Those gains are the latest in a series of steady advances our forces have been making since the summer of last year.

I would like once again to express our condolences to the families of our brave soldiers who have paid the ultimate price during those recent operations and, in the same breath, reiterate our

appreciation to the Governments of Burundi and Uganda for their commitment and increased deployment of troops to Somalia under AMISOM.

Following those gains, I am pleased to inform the Security Council that the TFG now effectively controls about 60 per cent of Mogadishu. The Government now fully controls seven districts of Mogadishu. Importantly, about 80 per cent of the city's population of roughly 2 million lives in the areas that have come under the control of the TFG and its Somali forces.

The humanitarian situation remains dire. It has been further exacerbated by the famine occasioned by the drought. Also, Al-Shabaab continues to act in flagrant violation of all norms of all civilized societies. They are not only targeting the TFG and AMISOM with mortars, improvised explosive devices and suicide attacks, but are also using innocent civilians as human shields, in horrific violation of humanitarian law. They are hampering the flow of humanitarian aid to the needy population and are perpetuating a siege on the population, which is now hostage to their ideology.

In spite of the gains we have recorded in Somalia, I must emphasize that the armed opposition group, Al-Shabaab, is still fighting to remove the TFG and AMISOM from Somalia so that it can continue to rain terror on the Somali people and even far beyond, as it did last year in Kampala, Uganda. The situation in Somalia poses a clear threat to international peace and security. A robust response from the international community is therefore needed.

Allow me at this juncture, therefore, to express some thoughts for the Council's consideration as it discusses a comprehensive strategy for peace and security in Somalia. These recommendations are based on the African Union's strategy, which encompasses political and security pillars.

The political pillar of the African Union strategy hinges on the need to support the Transitional Federal Institutions (TFIs). At this juncture in the transition, the African Union believes that the TFIs require the continued support of AMISOM. That will assist them in their efforts to meet the aspirations of the population and will also facilitate the end of the current transitional arrangements and allow for a new dispensation come August.

The security pillar of the African Union strategy is a means of achieving the political goal that I have just outlined. It includes provisions for the enhancement of AMISOM troop levels and the revised concept of operations that informed the decision of the African Union Peace and Security Council at the end of its meeting on 15 October 2010. It requires the deployment of 20,000 troops across Somalia and 12,000 troops in Mogadishu in particular.

This is to enable the African Union to achieve three broad political and military objectives. The first objective is to improve the security environment in and around Mogadishu. The second is to create an environment conducive to increased political engagement between the TFG and Somali groups outside the peace process, including the armed opposition groups and regional and local administrations across the country, and to finalize the new constitution. The third is to create an environment conducive to the delivery of humanitarian assistance and public services to the needy population in Mogadishu.

The political and security objectives that I have mentioned are achievable with the support of the international community and, in particular, through the Council's continued support to AMISOM. We certainly welcome the support of the Council, as detailed in its resolution 1964 (2010) of 22 December 2010. However, the African Union urgently requires the support of the Council in more ways. In specific reference to a comprehensive approach, the African Union would like to reiterate the requests made to the Council by the Commissioner for Peace and Security of the African Union Commission, Ambassador Lamamra, in December last year.

First, the African Union requests the Council to continue to support Somalia's Transitional Federal Institutions and its security forces, including through the provision of specialist training and equipment and initiatives to meet welfare needs.

Secondly, it requests the Council to enhance the support package for AMISOM, funded through United Nations-assessed contributions, on the basis of the newly authorized strength, and arranging for reimbursements for contingent-owned equipment, including minor and major equipment, and the payment of troop allowances at United Nations rates so as to ensure adequate, predictable and sustainable support to the Mission.

Thirdly, the African Union asks that the Council authorize the naval operations off the coast of Somalia to provide more direct and tangible support to AMISOM. That support could take the form of maritime deterrence and air surveillance operations to prevent the entry of foreign elements into Somalia and of flights and shipments delivering weapons and ammunition to armed groups inside the country that are carrying out attacks on the TFG, AMISOM and the Somali population.

Fourthly, the Council is requested to ensure the effective implementation of sanctions against all those impeding the peace and reconciliation process in Somalia, in particular through financial, material and logistical support to groups waging attacks on the TFG, the Somali people and AMISOM.

Fifthly, the African Union asks the Council to approach the issue of piracy off the coast of Somalia in a holistic manner, with the view to effectively addressing its underlying causes and other equally serious threats affecting the livelihood and well-being of the Somali people, in particular illegal fishing and the dumping of toxic substances and waste off the coast of Somalia.

Finally, the African Union requests the Council to enhance humanitarian aid assistance to Somalia and particularly to alleviate the current suffering of the population due to famine.

Allow me to conclude by reiterating on behalf of the African Union our appreciation to the Security Council for its untiring, resilient and courageous efforts in resolving the situation in Somalia. The African Union recognizes and appreciates fully the support of the international community to Somalia. We are now only a few months away from the end of the transition. During the coming months, more support is required. What we do and when and how we do it in addressing the situation in Somalia will be critical.

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): I thank Mr. Diarra for his statement.

I wish to remind all speakers to limit their statements to no more than four minutes in order to enable the Council to carry out its work expeditiously. Delegations with lengthy statements are kindly requested to circulate the texts in writing and to deliver a condensed version when speaking in the Chamber.

I shall now give the floor to the members of the Security Council.

Mr. Bellingham (United Kingdom): I am grateful for the opportunity to discuss Somalia at such an important time. I would also like to thank the Secretary-General, Special Representative of the African Union (AU) Diarra and Prime Minister Mohamed Abdullahi-Farmaajo for their excellent contributions to this debate.

The United Kingdom Government regards Somalia as a key priority. That is why I am here today. I convey great thanks to you, Mr. President, for facilitating this debate. Listening to the debate so far, I am struck by our common desire to end 20 years of instability, which have brought conflict and humanitarian disaster to the people of Somalia and threatened the people of the region and beyond with piracy and terrorism. I am glad the Secretary-General mentioned piracy and the need for urgent action; I do believe the Jack Lang report is very welcome (S/2011/30, annex).

In recent weeks, we have seen just how challenging the situation in Somalia is. I would like to commend the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) for what it is doing on our behalf and in particular on behalf of the Somali people. I join others in paying tribute to the brave soldiers of AMISOM and the professionalism and dedication they have shown in their successful actions against the corrupt and brutal tyranny of Al-Shabaab. In particular, I would like to express my appreciation to the Governments of Uganda and Burundi for the commitment they have shown and also pass on my sincere condolences to the families of those who have lost their lives in the recent fighting. The bravery of AMISOM troops in making their territorial gains reminds us that AMISOM needs our support and guidance.

As the Secretary-General pointed out, the gains are indeed fragile. This is not solely about defeating insurgent attacks, but also about protecting civilians as best as possible, in line with international humanitarian law. The force headquarters have recently taken steps to improve AMISOM's capacity to protect civilians. We welcome this, but more is needed to ensure that AMISOM is sufficiently resourced and continues to make gains. Incidentally, I also welcome the gains that have been made in the south of the country.

I am pleased to announce that the United Kingdom will shortly make a $3-million uncaveated contribution to the United Nations Trust Fund for AMISOM. I call on other donor countries to make similar uncaveated contributions.

It is clear that there is no simple solution to Somalia's instability. Military efforts alone are not going to bring about lasting peace. We need a political process that is legitimate and inclusive, allowing all those Somalis who oppose violence to play a positive role in their country's future. We encourage the United Nations and the AU to continue to work together to develop a coordinated political and military strategy that delivers real benefit to the Somali people.

In under six months' time, in August 2011, the transitional period is due to come to an end. We cannot allow a political vacuum to develop, but nor can we simply continue with business as usual. Recent efforts to extend the transitional period unilaterally without meaningful reform or consultation have not brought consensus. Indeed, they have served only to damage the legitimacy and credibility of the Transitional Federal Institutions (TFIs). It is troubling to me to hear about yet another reshuffle of the Transitional Federal Government (TFG), as this suggests that political in-fighting is a higher priority of the TFG than reconciliation and the delivery of services to the Somali people.

The United Kingdom believes there should be no extension of the Transitional Federal Institutions without reforms to make them more representative, legitimate and accountable to the Somali people. There needs to be broad consultation within Somalia and with the international community on what should follow the current arrangements. I was encouraged when His Excellency Prime Minister Abdullahi-Farmaajo outlined various service improvements, but these need to be built on. I therefore encourage all of us, under Special Representative Mahiga's leadership, to work more effectively, both with the TFIs and with regional and local administrations to bring about a new and more inclusive political arrangement.

The United Kingdom fully supports Augustine Mahiga in his efforts to negotiate a way forward. I am delighted that he is going to participate in and is listening to this debate.

The dire humanitarian situation in Somalia, worsened by drought, underlines the need for concerted action to ensure a more stable future for the Somali people. I commend the United Nations Humanitarian Relief Coordinator's work and encourage greater support for United Nations and bilateral humanitarian efforts in Somalia.

The year 2011 marks 20 years since the collapse of the Somali State. For many Somalis, the situation remains desperate, and many have been forced to flee their homes and families. A generation of Somali children has grown up without knowing peace, without going to school, without the simplest opportunities that many of us just take for granted.

But there are encouraging signs. At the local level, Somalis are working together to establish areas of stability and to reject acts of extremism, terrorism and piracy. We have an opportunity to help Somalis build on these initiatives. I believe that Somalia is literally at a crossroads. If recent military and political progress is maintained and the counter-piracy initiatives succeed — and I believe they can — then the future is bright. The alternative scenario is incredible depressing and grim. We must prevent it. That will require us to work together. I believe that we all have a responsibility to act and the United Kingdom will play its part.

Mr. Messone (Gabon) (*spoke in French*): At the outset, Sir, my delegation would like to welcome your initiative to hold a debate on the implementation of a comprehensive strategy for peace and security in Somalia. I would also like to thank the Secretary-General and Mr. Boubacar Diarra for their briefings. I welcome the presence of His Excellency Mr. Mohamed Abulllahi Mohamed, Prime Minister of Somalia, and of Mr. Henry Bellingham.

On 20 August, we will see the end of the transition period in Somalia. Despite the efforts of the international community to restore peace in that country, many challenges remain. Given the picture of the situation that has been painted for us today, my delegation believes that a comprehensive strategy in Somalia that incorporates the political, security, socio-economic and humanitarian aspects would be the most effective way to settle the crisis in the country definitively.

We share the concerns raised with regard to the political situation in Somalia. The Transitional Federal Government needs to further expand its political base, and we take note of the efforts highlighted by the

Prime Minister. The reconciliation process needs to take deeper root. The new constitution remains a priority. The slow progress in these areas fuels the prevailing uncertainty, which requires the authorities to show greater political will and commitment.

Gabon shares the wish to see more effective action on the ground on the part of the Government. Its primary goal should be to finalize the constitutional process, which is key for the completion of the political process. It is equally urgent to complete the other tasks of the transition, particularly providing basic services to the people of Somalia, who continue to bear the brunt of the crisis. I believe that it is also a priority for the Transitional Federal Government to strengthen cohesion within the institutions under its authority. We believe that the unilateral decision recently taken by the Parliament to extend its mandate for three years may be a departure from this notion.

It is from the standpoint that my delegation calls on all parties to conclude as soon as possible the post-transition arrangements in accordance with the Djibouti Agreement, to which Gabon remains committed. To that end, my country supports a compromise solution that would guarantee the legitimacy of the political arrangements in place and control over the Somali forces that are being trained.

Moving the peace process forward in Somalia requires strengthening both the political and the military strategy in order to first improve the security situation on the ground. In that respect, my delegation pays a well-deserved tribute to the troops of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) for their tireless efforts to ensure security, as seen in the meaningful improvements in the situation in Mogadishu. In this regard, my delegation expresses its solidarity to Uganda and Burundi for the sacrifices they continue to make to restore peace and stability in Somalia.

AMISOM is still facing many challenges on the ground. Rebel movements, including Al-Shabaab, continue to pose a real threat. That is why it is urgent for the international community to put an end to the illicit financing of these groups and of the supplies of men and weapons that they receive at the borders. We therefore need to strengthen the current sanctions mechanisms of the Council by focusing on targeted measures.

Similarly, it is increasingly necessary to increase the operational capacities of AMISOM. For this, the Security Council needs to do its utmost to follow up the recommendations contained in resolution 1964 (2010), particularly with respect to the dispatch of 4,000 additional troops. It also needs to ensure the effectiveness of both their deployment and their financing. This measure will be key with respect to the precarious situation on the ground. We also need to recall that the lack of predictable financing for AMISOM and the failure to reimburse the sums due for its equipment restrict its ability to fulfil its mandate.

In this respect, my delegation highlights the need to take into account the recommendations made here in October 2010 by the African Union, aimed at making AMISOM more effective on the ground. It would also be appropriate for donor countries to increase their contributions to the United Nations Trust Fund set up to support the operations of AMISOM.

The humanitarian situation is deteriorating in Somalia. Without robust action by the international community, drought and fighting will continue to cause further loss of human life. My delegation therefore urges greater mobilization by Somalia's partners to provide the necessary assistance to the people who need it. In this process, the Council must be able to ensure compliance by the parties with international humanitarian law, specifically the obligation to protect civilians, the non-use of minors in fighting and the free movement of humanitarian assistance.

One cannot address the situation in Somalia without taking up the serious threat of piracy. We share the evaluations and conclusions of the Jack Lang report (S/2011/30, annex) on this issue. I recall that my delegation has always underscored the need to address piracy in tandem with the security threats on land in the country. This is why we support the initiative for a comprehensive strategy.

From this same standpoint, we commend the adoption by the United Nations Political Office for Somalia, together with AMISOM, of a regional joint strategy. The interdependent nature of the challenges to be met in terms of political, security and humanitarian issues justify this comprehensive strategy, which we all support.

My delegation supports the presidential statement to be adopted by the Security Council at the conclusion of this debate.

Mr. Wittig (Germany): I thank the Chinese presidency for convening today's meeting. Germany is also very grateful for the clear and informed remarks of the Secretary-General. I am particularly gratified by the presence of Prime Minister Abdullahi Mohamed and the Special Representative for Somalia of the African Union Commission, Ambassador Diarra, as well as, via videolink, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, our friend Augustine Mahiga, from Mogadishu. I would like to extend a very warm welcome to His Excellency Mr. Bellingham, Minister for Africa of the United Kingdom.

Germany aligns itself with the statement to be delivered by the delegation of the European Union later on.

The Security Council has a unique responsibility in addressing the momentous challenges in Somalia. Germany strongly advocates for continued and focused work by the Council on Somalia, in close cooperation with regional actors and especially our partners in the African Union.

The conflict in Somalia has lasted far too long. It has attracted international terrorist activities and provided the breeding ground for piracy. It threatens international peace and security. But above all, its human cost is unacceptable. This human cost reminds us of our humanitarian responsibilities, especially with respect to vulnerable groups such as refugees, women and children. They continue to bear the brunt of the violence. We are concerned by the severely limited humanitarian space. We call upon all parties in the country to ensure unhindered access of humanitarian aid as well as the safety of all humanitarian staff. We also call for the immediate implementation of all the conclusions of the Security Council's Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict in Somalia.

Five months before the end of the transitional period, it is urgent to promote a clear political strategy for mastering the remaining transitional tasks. All of us — the Security Council, the actors in Somalia, neighbouring countries and all other stakeholders — must continue to join efforts to achieve tangible progress.

Germany reiterates her full support to the Djibouti process. The Somali Government now needs to focus on the completion of the constitution-making process, outreach to armed opposition groups through dialogue wherever possible and sensible, and the provision of security and basic services to the Somali people. The Transitional Federal Institutions must stop their political infighting. They are responsible to their people. They must refrain from unilateral actions, such as the recent extension of its term by the Transitional Federal Parliament.

The international community has to pursue its support to the Somali people and Somali institutions, in particular the security institutions, in order to work towards the stabilization of Somalia. Wherever possible, we should explore ways to extend our support to those regions of Somalia enjoying relative stability and security, including Somaliland and Puntland. We should also urge better cooperation between such regions and the Transitional Federal Government in Mogadishu. We also see the need to engage with local administrations, communities and civil society as a whole. We feel that their traditions and experiences can add significantly to the political process on the ground. In the longer perspective, extended cooperation between all actors could enhance opportunities for economic and social development beyond those regions, for the betterment of all Somalia.

Piracy originating from Somalia needs to be tackled in a comprehensive way. The United Nations and all other international actors have to pursue their common efforts in this regard. Germany will continue to actively take part in this endeavour.

Let me turn to the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM). We reiterate our full support to the African Union Mission in Somalia and its troop contributors, and are looking forward to its full deployment in the near future, in accordance with resolution 1964 (2010). Germany and the European Union are extensively assisting AMISOM and troop-contributing countries. Germany recently delivered substantial equipment aid to Burundian AMISOM contingents worth well over $5 million. We invite other donors to join our common effort and support AMISOM.

Germany is impressed by the professional and successful work carried out by AMISOM and its troop contributors in fulfilling its daunting task. We thank them for their dedication and are encouraged by the recent progress made on the ground, in Mogadishu and beyond. We are very saddened by the recent casualties among AMISOM soldiers.

My last point concerns the future of a United Nations presence in Somalia. Germany encourages the United Nations to strive to strengthen its presence in Somalia and especially in Mogadishu, as outlined by the Secretary-General in his most recent report. We welcome the recent efforts of the United Nations Political Office for Somalia and the United Nations country team in this respect. An enhanced United Nations presence on the ground can contribute to a more direct engagement with the various communities and thus to a political solution in Somalia.

Mr. Araud (France) (*spoke in French*): I should like to thank China for having convened this debate on Somalia, which will launch a process of reflection on ways of stabilizing the country and achieving peace as the expiration of the mandate of the transitional federal institutions approaches. I should like also to thank Mr. Mahiga and Mr. Diarra as well as the Prime Minister of Somalia for their respective contributions. I also align myself with the statement to be made later by the European Union.

The Transitional Government, allied factions and militias and the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) have launched an offensive against the Al-Shabaab rebels. We welcome the efforts deployed and the sacrifices made by the contingents involved and the success achieved on the ground in Mogadishu and in southern Somalia. The Ugandan and Burundian forces are bravely carrying out their mission within AMISOM and have paid a heavy price in recent weeks. France, for its part, has taken on the transportation and care of a number of wounded AMISOM soldiers.

That offensive will contribute to weakening the extremists and ensuring security in a large part of Somali territory and of the capital. However, this military approach cannot be a solution in and of itself; it must be part of a broader political strategy. From this perspective, we cannot but acknowledge that the progress made has been insufficient.

The transitional federal institutions have fuelled counter-productive institutional rivalries. They have not been able to increase their representativeness, nor have they managed to provide the people with the minimum level of services they require. We must, however, welcome the first initiatives of the new Government. A budget has been submitted to the Parliament, security for civilians has been set as a priority objective, the fight against corruption has been strengthened, and civil servants are now being paid. This represents important progress that must be acknowledged and strengthened.

We need a new political strategy for Somalia. What must its priorities be? First, a renewal of the institutional framework, as the State cannot continue to have transitional status. In order to prevent the absence of an institutional framework in August, the Somali authorities must undertake the finalization and adoption of a constitution. The transitional federal institutions, in particular the Parliament, must be reformed in order for all stakeholders of Somali society to be represented, in keeping with the Djibouti Agreement and on the basis of the most inclusive dialogue possible with all parties, including the provincial administrations, representatives of civil society and those militias that are willing to renounce violence.

Along those lines, we deplore the unilateral decision taken by the transitional Parliament to extend its own mandate. We commend the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Mahiga, for the work undertaken in the area of consultations and encourage him to revitalize the mechanisms for agreement set out in the Djibouti Agreement. A dialogue with the regions — Puntland in particular — and with allied groups, including Ahlu Sunnah Wal Jama'a, must be relaunched.

The second priority must be security and the provision of basic services for the Somali population. The Somali authorities must assign priority importance to working to benefit the people. Support for the transitional institutions must translate into tangible achievements on the part of the Somali people.

How can these objectives be attained? First, the role of the United Nations will be key. A strengthened, permanent and coherent presence of the United Nations will be required in Mogadishu. We call upon the United Nations agencies and programmes to deploy urgently their resources in the service of the people and the accessible territories. The work of the United Nations must take the form of concrete achievements that will benefit the Somali people; much remains to be done in this respect.

We are also aware of the lack of resources of the Somali Government. The financial support of the international community, as called for by the Prime Minister, reflects a practical need in a political context

and must be forthcoming. Finally, to seal the partnership between the Somali institutions and the international community, a new, joint road map focused on the respective objectives of the Somali institutions and the United Nations, including a timetable, could be created. Such a tool would allow for the creation of a coherent, agreed-upon strategic framework for the post-transitional period. Regular follow-up would be essential. Support by the international community for Somali institutions must be commensurate with the concrete results obtained.

I should like to conclude by addressing the issue of piracy. The report submitted by Mr. Lang (S/2010/30, annex) has recalled the urgency of finding solutions with respect to the judicial and penal treatment of pirates. Given what is at stake for the international community and for the region, we welcome the intention of the Russian Federation to submit, in the near future, a draft resolution to the Security Council aimed at the implementation of the proposals made in the report seeking to place Somalia at the centre of a mechanism aimed at combating impunity.

Mr. Churkin (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): We welcome the participation in today's meeting of the Security Council of the Prime Minister of the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia, and we listened carefully to his assessment. The complex military and political situation and the humanitarian situation in Somalia give greater urgency to the task of crafting a coordinated international strategy for a settlement. The lead role in this process is to be played by the Somali transitional federal institutions.

The priority task now is to ensure security in Somalia. A radical military and political breakthrough must be achieved. In particular, there is a need for the further consolidation and enhancement of the country's defence and security structures. The African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) continues to be a key stabilizing factor in Somalia. We express our gratitude to the Governments of Burundi and of Uganda, as their units form the backbone of the Mission.

Predictable and timely support for African Union peacekeepers must be provided by both donors and the United Nations. We advocate quickly increasing the size of the Mission to the level planned for in resolution 1964 (2010).

Strengthening the military contingent of AMISOM and the security sector of the Transitional Federal Government is aimed above all at protecting civilians and dismantling the military capacity of Al-Shabaab as the primary factor of destruction in Somalia. We must therefore close the external channels providing support for the armed Somali faction. The Security Council must continue to focus on the task of ensuring effective sanctions regimes that include targeted sanctions and that should be imposed on the basis of objective, vetted information.

The achievement of a peace settlement in Somalia will depend largely on the Somali people themselves. The Transitional Federal Government and the Parliament must strengthen their social bases, including by ensuring that the population has social and economic services, and also by restoring contacts with the constructive opposition and broad public participation in discussing the nation's future constitution and the parameters for the country's development after the transition period.

We support the process of phased expansion of the United Nations presence in Somalia and measures to improve coordination of its activities. We commend the efforts of Special Representative Mahiga, and in this context it is important to continue to take into account the security conditions under which United Nations staff members work.

The ongoing difficult humanitarian situation in Somalia and the meagre financing of assistance programmes are also matters of concern. We welcome the efforts of humanitarian organizations working under very difficult military and political conditions.

The problem of piracy continues to worsen. People perish at the hands of pirates, and the current counter-piracy measures do not keep up with developments. The Security Council needs to take urgent and decisive steps to stem further deterioration of the situation. The Russian delegation intends shortly to submit the draft of a new resolution on piracy, aimed at a comprehensive solution to this problem, including the very important issue of fighting impunity. We anticipate the support of the Council members for our initiative.

With the leadership of Somalia and international and regional partners, Russia will continue to work towards achieving a stable peace in the country based

on the Djibouti Agreement and in the interest of strengthening stability and security in the region.

Mr. Dunn (United States of America): I thank you, Mr. President, for convening this very important open debate and for seeking to bring a comprehensive perspective to the situation in Somalia. Let me also thank the Secretary-General for his informative briefing. I would also like to thank Prime Minister Mohamed of the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) for his remarks and Special Representatives Mahiga and Diarra for their participation today.

On behalf of the United States, let me express my deepest condolences for those killed and wounded in the recent fighting in Somalia against Al-Shabaab and its allies. In the current offensive, peacekeepers from the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) and Somali national security forces have shown professionalism, dedication and courage. We owe them our gratitude. I commend the resolve and commitment of the troop-contributing Governments of Burundi and Uganda. The international community needs to do more to support the troop, equipment and resource needs of AMISOM.

The situation in Somalia, as we have heard this morning, remains alarming. The Somali population face a dire humanitarian situation. We are gravely concerned about the approximately 2.4 million Somalis in urgent need of humanitarian assistance, most of them living in areas held by Al-Shabaab — areas where humanitarian space is shrinking. More than a year ago the World Food Programme (WFP) was forced to suspend its programmes in Shabaab-held territory due to threats and demands against its staff. Al-Shabaab has expelled several non-governmental organizations and United Nations agencies.

The inability to deliver humanitarian assistance under deteriorating conditions has meant that significantly more Somalis are seeking refuge and aid in neighbouring countries. My Government commends the efforts of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the WFP, UNICEF, the International Committee of the Red Cross and others as they continue to provide services under difficult conditions to the internally displaced and to Somali refugees in Kenya, Djibouti, Yemen and Ethiopia, whose Governments we thank for their hospitality.

We are deeply concerned by the continued threats to peace and security posed by radical extremists, criminals and other spoilers in Somalia. Instability and lack of economic opportunity continue to fuel piracy off the coast of Somalia, which threatens not only the Somali people and seafarers but the stability of the region as a whole. Piracy off the coast of Somalia is seriously hindering the delivery of vital humanitarian aid to the region, international trade through the Indian Ocean and the welfare of seafarers passing through the waters off the coast. Last month, as has been noted, four Americans tragically lost their lives while being held hostage by Somali pirates.

The level of violence being used by pirates is escalating and their range of operations is broadening. Those are troubling trends, and the international community, including this Council, must do more to address this flatly unacceptable situation not only by stepping up prevention efforts and enhancing judicial accountability, but also by going after those who finance, plan and organize piracy activities. In this regard, the United States recently hosted an ad hoc meeting of interested members of the Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia to further explore what the international community can do to go after those who unlawfully profit from those despicable activities. We strongly urge the international community to support those efforts.

The United States commends the efforts of the twenty countries, including many members of this Council, that have built a multinational naval patrol to conduct counter-piracy operations and safeguard vessels. Additionally, while we consider options to ensure that pirates face judicial consequences, we hope that the international community will continue to support and enhance prosecution-related programmes already under way. We welcome the contributions made by the United Nations and the Contact Group. We hope that the international community, including the Security Council, will work to ensure that the various initiatives that are being proposed complement each other.

As we move forward, incarceration capacity should be a key focus of both this Council and the Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia. As the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Legal Issues, Jack Lang, made clear in his comprehensive report to the Council (S/2011/30, annex), this will still

be an issue no matter which prosecution mechanism we pursue.

The obstacles to a stable Somalia cannot be underestimated. Under the dual-track approach, the United States continues to support the Djibouti peace process and the Transitional Federal Government even as we support other local and regional entities in Somalia that seek peace, reject terrorism and are willing to work with the TFG. We are increasingly concerned about the incessant political infighting and the lack of progress on governance reform, basic services for the Somali people and a functional political coalition that can govern and stabilize Somalia at large.

We expect the TFG to take advantage of advances by AMISOM to make progress towards achieving its transitional tasks and expanding outreach throughout Somalia, a critical objective in our view. We also call on the TFG to immediately take steps to improve its financial institutions and procedures. We are looking for greater accounting of assistance funds provided by the international community and from revenue sources such as the port of Mogadishu. In this regard, the United States has provided financial advisers to the Ministry of Finance to assist with revenue accountability. We call for the TFG to substantively improve its governance and security efforts and to provide a sustained demonstration of commitment towards that end.

Finally, the United States does not support the unilateral three-year extension of the Transitional Federal Parliament. Similarly, we oppose any assertion that the current TFG should simply be extended past August 2011, absent a clear Somali road map for how the TFG would make the transition into a representative Government within a defined time frame.

For credible progress to be made, we believe that the TFG and Parliament must enter into serious discussions with regional partners, Special Representative Mahiga and key supporters in the international community to identify a sensible, realistic way forward. I would especially like to note our appreciation for Special Representative Mahiga's continued work and leadership in this regard. The outcome of this process must advance the goal of building a comprehensive political solution and a strategy for reconciliation and lasting peace.

Mr. Sangqu (South Africa): The political, humanitarian and security situation in Somalia continues to pose a major threat not just to peace and development in Somalia but also to regional peace and global security. The international community has thus far been dealing with the situation in Somalia in a piecemeal manner. We therefore welcome the initiative of the Chinese presidency to convene this timely debate to discuss a comprehensive strategy for the realization of peace and security in Somalia.

We thank His Excellency Prime Minister Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed of Somalia, the Secretary-General and Ambassador Diarra of the African Union for their statements. We also thank His Excellency Mr. Henry Bellingham for his message today, and we appreciate the participation of Special Representative of the Secretary-General Ambassador Mahiga through video link.

The end of the transition period, on 20 August, is fast approaching. It is critical that the Transitional Federal Government (TFG), with the assistance of the international community, redouble its efforts in completing the remaining transitional tasks. This would require the full implementation of the Djibouti peace process and the road map for the implementation of the remaining transition tasks announced by Prime Minister Mohamed. All efforts should be geared towards the completion of the constitution-building process, outreach to those outside the Djibouti process and political reconciliation. This would also require unity of purpose among the Somali political leadership as they address these daunting challenges. National ownership over Somalia's future dispensation remains critical for ensuring the sustainability of these processes.

My delegation welcomes and fully supports the efforts of Special Representative Mahiga in engaging key stakeholders during the remainder of the transitional period and on post-transitional arrangements. We encourage the Special Representative to engage in broad political consultations with all stakeholders in Somalia, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and the African Union. The inclusivity of the future dispensation in Somalia remains critical for ensuring the sustainability of these processes. In that regard, rapprochement must be extended to all Somalis who wish to contribute towards a political solution in Somalia. Somaliland, Puntland and other local entities

also have an important role to play in the political process in Somalia.

South Africa welcomes the recent adoption of the joint regional strategy by the United Nations and IGAD. This strategy seeks to promote a common approach to political, security and humanitarian challenges, as well as to deal with institutional and financial challenges affecting the Somali peace process and the management of the TFG's transition. We believe that this will give further impetus to galvanizing efforts by key stakeholders in managing the transition.

We are convinced that the success of the Transitional Federal Government depends on its ability to deliver political and socio-economic dividends and provide security for its people. Recent events elsewhere clearly show that human security is key to stability and sustainable development in the long run. Efforts at the political level must therefore be complemented with the delivery of basic services to the people of Somalia. We call on the international community to provide all of the necessary support to the TFG in that regard. This will not only enhance the credibility and legitimacy of the TFG but also address the plight of Somali citizens.

South Africa is deeply concerned about the deteriorating humanitarian situation in Somalia, where it is reported that hundreds of civilians are killed and thousands of casualties are admitted to hospital on a monthly basis, with the number of internally displaced people alarmingly high. We encourage the international community to contribute to the 2011 Somalia humanitarian appeal, amounting to $529 million, to alleviate this human suffering.

The efforts of the TFG and the international community will be in vain if a conducive security environment is not guaranteed in order to allow the Government to focus on critical governance and institution-building tasks in the remaining period leading to the end of the transitional period.

Despite successes of Government forces and the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), we regret the loss of the lives of the dozens of troops killed around Mogadishu and its environs. Given the severity of the security situation in Somalia, it is vital that AMISOM be strengthened and supported to a level commensurate with the severe challenges on the ground. That should include the provision of funding through assessed contributions for the payment of troop allowances and reimbursement for contingency-owned equipment, as well as the provision of air capabilities and enablers to enhance the effectiveness of AMISOM. South Africa welcomes the ongoing support provided by bilateral partners to the Trust Fund for AMISOM. We encourage partners to provide that support without caveats.

A comprehensive strategy for Somalia should take cognizance of the fact that bolstering AMISOM is not an end in itself. AMISOM is undertaking the important task of supporting the Government, but we must do more than just keep the Government alive. The long-term strategy must contribute to building Government institutions to enable them to survive on their own. Key in the fight against the armed opposition will be the strengthening of Somalia's own security institutions. A strong and effective Somali Security Force will enable the Government to extend its area of control and provide a safe environment for facilitating an expanded United Nations presence in Mogadishu.

With regard to piracy off the coast of Somalia, my delegation supports the ongoing efforts to address this challenge. We are of the view that addressing the scourge of piracy would require a holistic approach that addresses the underlying causes of the problem, promotes economic opportunities and addresses the political and security dimension of piracy. Developing coastal income-generating activities and the fishing industry, as well as investigations into illegal fishing and toxic dumping allegations, should assist in reversing the growing trend of piracy. We remain convinced that piracy is but a symptom of the insecurity challenges faced on land. For that challenge to be addressed comprehensively, increased attention to the insecurity on land must be prioritized.

The months ahead provide the TFG and the international community a window of opportunity to ensure that the people of Somalia are afforded the peace and security that has escaped them for too long. My delegation believes that renewed vigour on the part of Somalis and the international community is required to bring them closer to realizing that goal. The Security Council, on its part, should continue regularized and focused attention on all issues pertaining to Somalia, in line with their comprehensive strategy on dealing with the issues facing Somalia.

Mr. Hardeep Singh Puri (India): I would like to place on record our appreciation to you, Mr. President, for organizing today's open debate, which is very timely and gives us an opportunity to discuss the situation in Somalia comprehensively. I would also like in particular to thank the Secretary-General for setting the coordinates and tone for our discussion today. Our thanks also go to Ambassador Diarra, Special Representative of the Chairperson of the Commission of the African Union.

The Prime Minister of the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia, His Excellency Mr. Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed, deserves our special appreciation for his comprehensive outline of the achievements of the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) thus far, as well as its plans for the immediate future. I draw inspiration in particular from the Prime Minister's expressed determination to regain his land, his identity and his dignity from the extremists. I would like to assure the Prime Minister of India's continued commitment to supporting every meaningful effort aimed at furthering peace, reconstruction and institution-building in Somalia.

In keeping with discussions held earlier this week in Mogadishu by our Ambassador, including with the Prime Minister, we will examine ways of intensifying our cooperation aimed at building capacity in the various areas identified by the Prime Minister in dealing with the scourge of piracy.

India and Somalia are linked by two millenniums of shared history and culture. We are neighbours across the sea. In recent times, Mogadishu, Kismayo and other Somali cities have had thriving Indian communities. Even today, India is home to many Somalis. Indian teachers are fondly remembered by many Somalis. In recent times, as Somalia fell into difficult circumstances, India contributed significant numbers of peacekeepers and naval and air assets to the Unified Task Force and to the United Nations Operation in Somalia II. The work of Indian medical units among the civilian population is still recalled. We also remain active in the Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia, while continuing existing measures to protect our seafarers and maritime commerce.

The peace and security issues confronting Somalia, as well as the immediate and greater region, are matters that concern us all. I join in commending the TFG forces and the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) for their recent successes. I also take note of the Secretary-General's assessment that that effort is currently fragile and needs to be supported, and we have every intention of doing so.

We extend our sincere condolences on the sacrifices that have been made. We have had reports of the trying circumstances in which the various contingents operate. We also wish to record our appreciation for the good work being done by the United Nations Support Office for AMISOM. The Council should examine the recommendations made by the African Union and others for supporting AMISOM and Somalia and its people.

However, international efforts to re-establish security in Somalia will not be successful so long as Al-Shabaab continues to generate internal resources for its activities. We would therefore like to see TFG forces control Kismayo port so that port earnings are not misappropriated by Al-Shabaab. Simultaneously, all stakeholders should undertake serious efforts to cut off arms supplies to Al-Shabaab.

It is important to break any nexus between domestic destabilizing forces and external support agencies that is intended to introduce outside combatants or arms and ammunition. That requires effective monitoring of existing sanctions and a common commitment to honour them.

The drought in Somalia and in neighbouring countries has assumed alarming proportions in lands that even in normal times are not adequately blessed with water resources. We would be prepared to work with the TFG to assist the Somali people in this regard.

One of the unfortunate outcomes of the larger and ongoing tragedy in Somalia is piracy. It has not only had a destabilizing effect on global and regional trade and security, but has also brought about much suffering to seafarers and their families. The recent killing of four United States citizens by the pirates is only an example, and we strongly condemn that.

As I mentioned in the Council's debate on 25 January 2011 (see S/PV.6473), Somali pirates are operating further and further from the Somali coast. Recent incidents of piracy have taken place about 250 nautical miles away from the Indian coast. The shift of attacks to the south and east of the Indian Ocean reflects the pirates' ability to adapt to bypass the

security corridor established by naval forces and to extend their reach to approximately 1,000 to 1,200 miles from Somali Coast. The Indian Navy and Coast Guard have stepped up their vigil against pirates in India's exclusive economic zone. They have recently neutralized two mother ships being used by the pirates.

The issue of sailors taken hostage by pirates and their plight is one that the Security Council has not addressed. My delegation feels that the ways and means to address this issue require the most urgent and serious consideration of the United Nations.

The International Maritime Bureau reported that in 2010 alone, 1,016 sailors of all nationalities were taken hostage by Somali pirates, and 638 of them remain hostages. It is a matter of serious concern for us that 53 Indian nationals aboard the hijacked ships are being held captive by pirates. The hostages are generally from working-class backgrounds and are often the only bread-winners of their families. The primary responsibility for the release of hostages lies with the owners of the ships concerned. In many cases it has been observed, regrettably, that those ship owners do not take responsibility or display adequate interest in securing the release of the sailors in their employ. In many circumstances sailors must endure very harsh conditions under captivity and are often tortured by their captors.

My delegation views this issue with the greatest concern. Democracies in particular are sensitive to public opinion and are impacted by a public sense of need to act on the adverse situations faced by their citizens. There has to be more effective action that the international community can collectively take. I was encouraged by the remarks of my Russian colleague and look forward to receiving details of his initiative on piracy and to being able to support it.

India has been fully engaged in the efforts of the Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia, and we will continue to work with other countries. The Indian Navy has been undertaking anti-piracy patrols in the Gulf of Aden since October 2008.

We will work with Somali authorities and support the work of the African Union and this Council in a constructive manner. We are happy that even through trying times, bilateral cooperation programmes such as the Pan-African e-Network are being successfully implemented in Somalia. We look forward also to a visit by the Deputy Prime Minister for Planning and International Cooperation, His Excellency Mr. Abdiweli Ali. We will remain engaged with Somalia.

Mr. Barbalić (Bosnia and Herzegovina): At the outset, I wish to thank His Excellency the Secretary-General for his briefing and to warmly welcome Mr. Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed, Prime Minister of Somalia, and Mr. Boubacar Gaoussou Diarra, Special Representative of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission for Somalia, and to express our gratitude to them. Additionally, I would like to warmly welcome His Excellency Mr. Henry Bellingham, Minister for Africa of the United Kingdom.

Let me underline that Bosnia and Herzegovina fully aligns itself with the statement of the European Union to be delivered later this morning. I shall now highlight a few additional points.

I wish to begin our statement by congratulating the Chinese presidency for organizing this important and timely debate on Somalia as the end of the transitional period approaches.

Bosnia and Herzegovina shares the opinion of the other delegations that the peace process is at a critical juncture and that it is of crucial importance to adopt a comprehensive strategy for peace and stability in Somalia. We reiterate our full support to the Transitional Federal Government, having in mind that the Djibouti peace process remains the only viable framework for conciliation, confidence-building and long-term stability in the country. We urge all parties outside the Djibouti peace process to join in and work together in the interest of the Somali people. In that regard we wish to stress the importance of national ownership of the transition process in Somalia. We call on all stakeholders in Somalia to do their utmost, through unity and full commitment, to implement the commitments undertaken without delay and share the successful completion of the transition period.

We consider it highly important that the Transitional Federal Institutions refrain from any unilateral actions so as not to have negative impacts on the overall political, security and humanitarian situation. Furthermore, we call on the Transitional Federal Institutions to redouble their efforts in the area of national reconciliation, completing the constitution, capacity-building, building up national security forces and expanding the political space in the country through inclusive dialogue.

Another important aspect in insuring peace and stability throughout Somalia is strengthening State institutions in order to ensure delivery of basic services to the people. To reach that goal it is important that the international community make additional efforts and provide the necessary support to the Transitional Federal Institutions, including through training and equipping the Somali security forces.

Bosnia and Herzegovina remains deeply concerned about the security situation in Somalia. We condemn all terrorist activities and attacks in the country, especially those aimed at the civilian population. We are gravely concerned at the reports of violations of the human rights of women and children and of the recruitment of children by parties to the conflict, including recruitment by pirates.

One of the main reasons for the recruitment of youth and children by pirates and insurgents is lack of financial security. Therefore, socio-economic recovery should be one of the priorities of the Transitional Federal Institutions and the international community. Furthermore, we urge the Transitional Federal Government to do its utmost to end the culture of impunity through genuine efforts to establish the rule of law.

The role of the African Union Mission to Somalia is significant in assisting and protecting the Transitional Federal Government and maintaining security in Mogadishu. In that regard we pay homage to the troop-contributing countries — Burundi and Uganda — for their dedication and commitment. We commend the troops of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) and appreciate the efforts of the African Union and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development.

We are encouraged by reports of some territorial gains in Mogadishu by the Transitional Federal Government's forces. We are of the view that the recent endorsement by the Security Council of the proposal by the African Union to increase the AMISOM troop level up to 12,000, as well as the requisite logistical support package for AMISOM, will have a positive impact on expanding the security and political space in the country. We call upon the international community to provide additional support for AMISOM to reach its mandated strength and for it to have the necessary capabilities to fulfil its mission.

We express our deep concern regarding the worsening humanitarian situation in Somalia, where reportedly around 2.3 million people still depend on humanitarian aid. The obstruction of the delivery of much needed humanitarian assistance to the people of Somalia is another issue of major concern. A serious decline in the provision of humanitarian aid has been evident. We thus appeal to the international community to address the humanitarian situation and provide indispensable assistance.

On piracy, we share the view that there is a great urgency in establishing effective counter-piracy measures before a spillover effect produces further instability in the region. The phenomenon of piracy is one of the challenges that still awaits an adequate and effective response from the international community, although some security, judiciary, prevention best practices and awareness-raising measures have been taken.

We should continue to concentrate and cooperate on the elimination of the root causes of piracy. In that regard, we welcome the proposal of the Secretary-General on possible options to further the aim of prosecuting and imprisoning persons responsible for acts of piracy and armed robbery at sea off the coast of Somalia, as well as the proposal of Mr. Jack Lang, Special Adviser on Legal Issues Related to Piracy off the Coast of Somalia.

Finally, Bosnia and Herzegovina commends the Secretary-General and Mr. Augustine Mahiga, his Special Representative for Somalia, for their hard work, dedication and ongoing efforts aimed at securing a better future for the people of Somalia.

Mrs. Viotti (Brazil): I would like to extend our appreciation to you, Mr. President, for your timely initiative in convening this debate. I would also like to thank the Secretary-General for his important statement.

Our appreciation also goes to the Prime Minister of Somalia, His Excellency Mr. Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed, for his presence and for his remarks to the Council.

May I also express our recognition for the work of the African Union in Somalia, as presented by the Special Representative of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission for Somalia, Mr. Boubacar Diarra. We are also pleased that Special Representative

Augustine Mahiga is able to join us today through video link.

As the second decade of the conflict in Somalia comes to a close, one realizes with sadness that the goal of achieving peace and security for the country has so far eluded us, in spite of the efforts carried out by the Somali people with the support of the international community. Continued instability in Somalia has effects that are devastating for its population and reach far beyond its borders. The time has come to review our collective approach and design a strategy that takes into account the multiple dimensions of the situation.

A strategy that leads to a lasting solution is one that will consider how best to combine efforts to generate security and stability, promote political reconciliation and support reconstruction, economic revitalization and capacity-building. Peace and development must go hand in hand in Somalia. The India, Brazil and South Africa ministerial declaration issued on 8 March reiterates our readiness to support international efforts aimed at reconciliation, reconstruction and development in Somalia.

Recent progress, such as the appointment of a new Government with a professional Cabinet and the improvement of the security situation in certain areas controlled by the Transitional Federal Government (TFG), are important and should be commended. The challenges, however, remain daunting. Efforts must continue to be made to consolidate security gains. The deployment of the additional 4,000 troops to the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), as authorized by the Security Council, should be implemented as swiftly as possible.

We commend the African countries that have contributed troops to AMISOM, in particular Burundi and Uganda, and extend our condolences for the sacrifices made. In order to be more effective, AMISOM must be given adequate conditions for its operation, including through strengthened United Nations support. The same goes for the Somali Security Forces in order to address the problems of retention and integration of personnel, under a unified chain of command.

The security challenges in Somalia have severely hindered humanitarian assistance. As we have learned from the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, drought has affected almost 2.5 million people and caused alarming levels of malnutrition and massive migration. There is a need to step up humanitarian funding and create conditions for secure aid delivery.

The situation in Somalia is also deeply affected by the growing scourge of piracy. The recent killing of hostages and new reports of kidnappings seem to confirm the worst predictions regarding piracy off the coast of Somalia. The report (S/2011/30, annex) of Special Adviser Jack Lang contains important recommendations. The Security Council must react to them in a timely manner. Again, a comprehensive strategy is required so as to combine repressive and punitive measures with preventive ones, through initiatives on land that can help mitigate the problems at sea.

The efforts of the Transitional Federal Government towards stability and institution-building deserve our support. As the Council set out in its latest resolution regarding Somalia (resolution 1964 (2010)), significant progress by the TFG on the remaining transitional tasks, in particular the constitution-making process and the delivery of basic services to the population, is essential to the recovery efforts in Somalia.

We note that the decision of the Transitional Federal Parliament to unilaterally extend its mandate has raised strong reaction and may not be conducive to a lasting political solution to the situation in Somalia. An inclusive dialogue among all Somalis and key stakeholders may pave the way for progress towards stability. Transitional authorities must demonstrate their statesmanship for the success of this crucial endeavour.

As we approach August, a clear strategy for the post-transitional period needs to be devised. It will require a solid and encompassing political settlement enshrined in a new constitution and significant improvement in the security situation. These steps will help to establish a virtuous cycle in which stability can take hold.

Today's debate and the draft presidential statement before us signal the Security Council's commitment to a process that can lead to a peaceful and stable Somalia.

Mr. Salam (Lebanon) (*spoke in Arabic*): I would like to thank you, Mr. President, for your initiative to convene this meeting. I would also like to extend my

thanks to the Secretary-General for his preliminary observations, as well as to welcome the participation of the Prime Minister of Somalia's Transitional Federal Government (TFG), Mr. Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed. I thank him for his invaluable statement. We would also like to draw attention to the statement made by Ambassador Diarra, Special Representative of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission for Somalia.

In a country where nearly a third of the population needs humanitarian assistance because of war, displacement, drought and the like, focusing only on a military solution and on fighting a rebellion will lead to no sustainable results. Somalia needs an inclusive strategic solution that goes beyond the security situation to buttressing Somali institutions and economic development.

We reiterate our support for the Djibouti peace process, in particular as it is currently the sole political track to save Somalia. We call for reactivating and energizing that process. Lebanon welcomes the Somali Government's development of a political road map. We hope that the Government will continue to carry out the remaining transitional tasks, implement reconciliation initiatives, reach out to opposition groups through dialogue and finalize the draft constitution with the participation of all parties. In that connection, we express our regret that the Transitional Federal Parliament had to extend its mandate without accomplishing the requisite reforms.

With regard to security, we condemn the attacks undertaken by anti-Government militias and at the same time stress the need for all parties to ensure the protection of civilians. We also emphasize the need to lend expeditious support to the regular forces of Somalia in order to allow the Government to extend its authority. We welcome the fact that the TFG and the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) have made significant gains in Mogadishu. At the same time, we express our concern over the fragility of the security situation in southern and central Somalia, which impedes most humanitarian activities.

Piracy and armed robbery constitute a threat to international commercial navigation and impede the delivery of humanitarian assistance. We endorse the African Union's call on the Security Council on 15 October 2010 to approach the issue of piracy in a comprehensive manner in order to address its underlying causes and other threats adversely affecting the livelihoods of Somalis, particularly illegal fishing and the dumping of toxic wastes off the shores of Somalia.

With respect to the humanitarian situation, we express our deep concern over the apparent recruitment of child soldiers and reports of the coercive evacuation of internally displaced persons and of threats to humanitarian workers and assistance. In that regard, we stress the need for humanitarian workers to reach out to all Somali parties with a view to providing humanitarian assistance to all those who need it, particularly those who need it most and who reside in areas under rebel control.

In the absence of an international peace force, Lebanon agrees with the Secretary-General that the elements of support for AMISOM should conform with support given to United Nations peacekeeping operations. In that regard, we call on the Security Council to enhance its support, including through the possible funding of AMISOM through assessed contributions. We call on donors to increase their reimbursements of AMISOM through unconditional contributions to the United Nations Trust Fund. We support the expeditious deployment of a United Nations presence in Somalia with a view to sending a message of support from the Security Council for the Djibouti peace process.

In conclusion, we support the draft presidential statement to be adopted at the end of the meeting.

Mr. Amieyeofori (Nigeria): Allow me to convey Nigeria's appreciation to the Chinese delegation for convening this important and timely meeting on Somalia.

I warmly welcome Prime Minister Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed to the Council and thank him for sharing his Government's strategic vision with us. Let me also thank the Secretary-General for his insightful remarks and tireless efforts to promote peace in Somalia. I also wish to thank Ambassador Diarra, Special Representative for Somalia of the Commission of the African Union, for his incisive assessment of the situation in Somalia.

Nigeria is encouraged by the priorities that Prime Minister Mohamed has outlined to move Somalia beyond its security, political and socio-economic challenges. With the official transition mandates set to

terminate in August, Somalia is now at a critical juncture. We should therefore work towards achieving a consensus on the remaining transition tasks agreed under the Djibouti Agreement with a view to cementing recent gains in the post-transition period. Nigeria believes that the full implementation of the transitional tasks — especially stabilizing Somalia, delivering a new constitution and undertaking political reconciliation — will lay a solid foundation for a peaceful post-transition era in Somalia.

However, these goals can be realized only through concerted international support for the Transitional Federal Government (TFG). The appointment of the 18-member Cabinet by the Prime Minister was a positive step. The Government should be strengthened to become more effective, accountable and responsive to the needs of the people of Somalia. On its part, the TFG must prioritize forging political alliances and achieving wider reconciliation. It should also demonstrate a willingness to work closely with local institutions in accordance with the Transitional Federal Charter of the Somali Republic. In addition, it should enhance its relationship with both Puntland and Somaliland, and do all it can to maintain its power-sharing agreement with the Ahlu Sunnah Wal Jama'a.

The growing insecurity in southern Somalia and the merger between Al-Shabaab and Hizbul Islam are of grave concern. Stabilizing Somalia's security environment is vital to strengthening the Government and to building State capacity and institutions. Consequently, increased support is required if Somali forces are to fight piracy and insurgency and extend the TFG's authority throughout the country.

Nigeria reiterates its firm support for the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM). AMISOM should be supported to an extent commensurate with its operational mandates. If recent military gains are to be extended, there is a need for greater progress in the deployment of 4,000 troops in accordance with resolution 1964 (2010). We still believe that the Council's endorsement of an increased AMISOM force strength to 20,000 is necessary to strengthen Somalia's security capabilities.

We fully back the commitment of the African Union Peace and Security Council to the rehatting of AMISOM as a United Nations force, in accordance with the Security Council's statement of intent expressed in resolution 1863 (2009), and call for the establishment of a timeline for its deployment. Nigeria reiterates the need for the support package for AMISOM to be identical to that provided to United Nations peacekeeping operations. Parity between reimbursement rates for AMISOM contingent personnel and United Nations contingent personnel is also essential, and we appeal to donors to emulate the United Kingdom by making uncaveated contributions for the refund of donors' contingent equipment.

The fragile socio-economic environment in Somalia and the absence of effective governance structures are the bases of the piracy problem. We therefore share the sense of urgency expressed by the Special Adviser during his most recent briefing to the Council (see (S/PV.6473) when he called for swift action to address the threat of piracy in Somalia. We also agree with his recommendations concerning the judicial and correctional components of the counter-piracy strategy. In that connection, we call for the swift adoption of anti-piracy legislation in Somalia and throughout the region. Clear standards for the transportation and detention of pirates will aid the transborder prosecution of maritime lawlessness. INTERPOL and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) should be included in developing local prosecutorial capacity, a Somali coast guard authority and a UNODC-supported training office for local authorities.

The mounting allegations of illegal fishing and toxic dumping lead us to call for the establishment of an independent international investigation. Many Somalis view such activities as a legitimate justification for piracy. Consequently, we believe that such an investigation would present a major opportunity for international intervention to address the intertwined roots of Somalia's instability — a sentiment expressed in statements issued in 2008.

Notwithstanding the strong partnership between the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, the African Union and the United Nations in Somalia, the international community still needs to pay more and greater attention to the views of the African Union on Somalia. We therefore reiterate the African Union Peace and Security Council's request for increased funding for AMISOM from United Nations assessed contributions, for the imposition of a naval blockade and a no-flight zone over Somalia and for the effective implementation of sanctions.

In conclusion, we salute the gallant men and women of the military forces of Uganda and Burundi for their efforts and commitment to the cause of peace in Somalia. We also salute the dedication of international aid and humanitarian workers in the country. The work of these important actors can be underpinned by a concerted international effort to bring about sustained peace in a unified Somalia.

Mr. Moraes Cabral (Portugal): As others have done, let me commend you, Mr. President, for organizing this timely and central debate, a clear indication that the Security Council and the international community cannot, and will not, turn a blind eye to Somalia at this critical juncture. I also thank the Secretary-General for his comprehensive briefing and for setting the framework for our discussion. Allow me as well to express a word of appreciation to Prime Minister Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed for his encouraging statement and his personal commitment to furthering peace and institution-building in Somalia. I also thank Ambassador Diarra for his very useful comments. And I welcome Ambassador Mahiga in Mogadishu, whom we are very pleased to have with us here today.

In January, when we last discussed the situation in Somalia (see S/PV.6473), the Council reaffirmed its support for the Djibouti Agreement as the basis for the resolution of the conflict in Somalia and reiterated its full support to the Transitional Federal Government. Today, we wish to stress the importance of capitalizing on the progress that has been made. We believe that it is crucial to improve Somali institutional capacity and achieve political stability.

In that regard, it is important for the Transitional Federal Government to undertake further concrete measures towards transition, in particular the timely conclusion of the constitution-making process and the delivery of basic services to the population. As I have said, it is essential that Somali institutions build on the progress achieved so far. In that endeavour, one must comprehensively address all the challenges Somalia faces at the political, security, humanitarian, human rights and socio-economic development levels. Also of paramount importance is to ensure the strengthening of civilian capacity-building and to engage Somalis in the process, as well as in public life in general.

Portugal subscribes to the view expressed in the very useful concept note (S/2011/114, annex) prepared for this debate that an inclusive and strengthened dialogue with all Somalis and key stakeholders will help map the way forward for Somalia. We therefore welcome and encourage the work of Ambassador Mahiga in assisting the Somali people in reaching agreement on post-transitional arrangements, in consultation with the international community.

Portugal also recognizes the progress made by the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) and national security forces in consolidating security and stability in Mogadishu. We encourage the strengthening of the Somali Security Forces, as the Transitional Federal Government bears the primary responsibility for safeguarding peace and security in Somalia. Nevertheless, AMISOM continues to play a vital role in Somalia. We therefore reiterate our support to AMISOM and encourage the full deployment of 4,000 additional troops.

Regrettably, those gains have been overshadowed by the tragic losses of life suffered in recent fighting in Mogadishu. We extend our deepest sympathy to the Governments of Burundi and Uganda, the Transitional Government and the Somali people.

The most serious impact of ongoing violence and insecurity in Somalia is on the Somali people themselves. We condemn in the strongest terms all attacks on the Transitional Government, AMISOM and the civilian population. We are particularly concerned about the situation of women and children, the most vulnerable victims of violence. In that regard, we welcome the commitment by the Transitional Government to halt the recruitment of children, as well as the appointment of a high-level focal point for child protection and human rights, namely, State Minister Zahra Ali Samantar. We wish her every success in her endeavours. We also urge the parties to comply with international humanitarian and human rights law and to ensure full and unhindered access to all populations in need by humanitarian workers.

Portugal echoes the concerns shared by other members with regard to the threat posed by piracy, including the increasing violence and their increasingly sophisticated methods, which we strongly condemn. We have been engaged with international partners and allies in the fight against piracy. We took part in NATO operations and currently participate in the European Union's Operation Atalanta. Portugal will assume command of that mission beginning in May.

We believe and strongly support a multidimensional response to the problem of piracy off the coast of Somalia that includes tackling the root causes of the problem, improving the current responses and embracing new economic, security and jurisdictional/correctional solutions, including an extra-territorial specialized court in the region, as proposed in the recent report (S/2011/30, annex) presented by Special Adviser to the Secretary-General Jack Lang. As I have previously stated in the Council, Portugal strongly supports the proposals contained in that report.

We do not underestimate the difficulties in Somalia. That is why we underline that the continuing commitment, engagement and close cooperation of all parties will be necessary to achieve peace in Somalia, foster national cohesion and open the way for economic and social development. We strongly support the continuous engagement of the African Union, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development and other regional organizations. In that context, we of course share the position of the European Union, which will be set out later.

But let me also stress that while the international community must carry on showing its commitment and acting in a concerted way, affording the Somali people the support and encouragement they deserve, concrete steps can only be achieved if there is real commitment from Somali leaders and institutions in laying the foundations for peace and stability in the country. I hope that today's debate will help to achieve that goal.

Mr. Osorio (Colombia) (*spoke in Spanish*): I am grateful for the statements delivered by Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, Prime Minister Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed of the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia and Special Representative of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission for Somalia Ambassador Diarra. I also welcome Ambassador Mahiga, who is with us from Mogadishu. My delegation welcomes this timely debate on a comprehensive strategy for peace and security in Somalia, especially given the worrying security environment, which is intensifying in several regions of the country. We are grateful for this initiative by the Chinese presidency of the Council.

The recent fighting in Mogadishu has resulted in many dead, wounded and displaced people. The intensification of the conflict has contributed to deepening the alarming humanitarian situation, which has further deteriorated owing to the prevailing drought. Somalia remains one of the most complex environments in which to carry out humanitarian work. It is therefore necessary to ensure that all parties to the conflict respect humanitarian principles and facilitate access to assistance, in particular for the most vulnerable populations.

Moreover, the increase and geographical expansion of pirate attacks and the recently heightened use of violence, including protracted periods of detention and the murdering of hostages, are all highly disturbing. This crime has become one of the most lucrative activities in Somalia, with those responsible in part utilizing ransoms to improve their arsenals and make their operations more efficient and effective. The latest estimates indicate that pirates remain in possession of 819 individuals and 51 boats.

Piracy is one of the disastrous consequences of institutional weakness and poor economic conditions. There are also some reports indicating that armed groups such as Al-Shabaab are increasingly benefiting from the profits of piracy. This criminal activity is penetrating local economies and establishing a progressive dependence on the criminal industry developed around it.

Although international cooperation to provide security for navigation, prevent attacks and arrest pirates has yielded some positive results, the solution to this problem must comprehensively involve both the main source and primary victim of this problem, namely, Somalia.

The seriousness of the situation urgently requires a comprehensive approach that includes strengthening the rule of law and the creation of institutions to ensure good governance and allow social and economic development in Somalia.

With regard to security as a precondition for strengthening the rule of law, it is essential to provide more resources and to train security forces so as to enable them to patrol and provide security on land as well as the waters off the coast. In that regard, we are concerned that the flow of weapons remains constant, which, according to the Monitoring Group on Somalia, has devastating effects in the context of chronic armed conflict, the absence of effective central authority and a serious humanitarian crisis.

With regard to the justice sector, it is necessary to adopt reforms to facilitate the prosecution and imprisonment of pirates in the context of applicable international law. We agree with what was set out in the report of Special Adviser Jack Lang (see S/2011/30, annex) on the need for Somalia to assume ownership of judicial and imprisonment processes so as to end the impunity that pirates enjoy. The assistance provided by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in coordination with the Contact Group on Piracy, to reform criminal and procedural legislation and to include provisions for the investigation and prosecution of piracy is of paramount importance.

Community-based investments and the need to create opportunities for young people are vital. In that regard, fishing has been mentioned as an economic option suited to the characteristics of the country. However, Somalia must also resolve a very serious pending issue, namely, the delimitation of its maritime borders with neighbouring States.

Adopting a sustainable and comprehensive strategy aimed at the capacity-building of national institutions and the provision of basic services requires consistency in the efforts of the various United Nations entities and the effective use of existing mechanisms, including the regime envisaged in resolutions 751 (1992) and 1907 (2009) to impose sanctions on individuals who threaten the reconciliation process.

In recent months, the Council has had the opportunity to consider various proposals that offer options for viable and comprehensive actions with regard to the general crisis faced by Somalia. In view of the end of the transition period and given the gravity of the situation, the United Nations must lead an early and decisive international response that has stabilization and strengthening of the Somali State as the primary goal.

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): I shall now make a statement in my capacity as the representative of China.

The transitional period in Somalia will come to an end in August, which will usher in a new stage in the settlement of the question of Somalia. It will present daunting challenges while also providing significant opportunities. The many problems facing Somalia are interlinked and mutually reinforcing, and therefore require an integrated response.

China believes it is necessary to formulate and implement a comprehensive strategy for the early realization of peace, security and development in Somalia. That comprehensive strategy should reflect Somalia's ownership and give full play to the important role of the United Nations. In our view, that important strategy should comprise five pillars.

First is the effective promotion of political reconciliation in Somalia. We hope that the Transitional Federal Government will work within the framework of the Djibouti Agreement, complete its constitutional process and other transitional tasks as planned and enter into dialogue as soon as possible with the relevant national parties and international cooperation partners on post-transitional arrangements, with a view to reaching consensus at an early date. We hope that the various Somali parties will seize this opportunity to effectively promote national political reconciliation.

Second is strengthening capacity-building in the security sector. We call on the Transitional Federal Government, with the assistance of international partners, to step up efforts to strengthen the security sector so as to establish at an early date a professional army, capable of maintaining national peace and stability and of protecting the security of the Somali people. We urge the parties concerned to continue to provide donations to the Somali Security Sector Institutions Trust Fund.

Third is the promotion of economic and social development. Supporting the people is a decisive factor in the future of Somalia, and the key to winning the people's support is to show the Somali people the prospect of a good life so that they can have confidence in their country's future. China calls on the United Nations and donors to mobilize more financial and material resources to help Somalia to bring about development. Somalia should have a greater say on questions such as the distribution and implementation of financial assistance.

Fourth is fighting piracy off the coast of Somalia. China calls for deep reflection by the international community on its strategy to combat piracy. Greater attention should be paid to effectively addressing the land-based origins of piracy through political, economic and judicial means.

Fifth is support for the leading role of the African Union. China highly values the important role of

regional organizations, such as the African Union, and of the African Union Mission to Somalia, and calls on the international community to provide more support to the African Union. We support the Security Council in responding positively to the relevant requests of the African Union and in giving favourable consideration to the deployment of a peacekeeping operation in Somalia at an appropriate time.

I now resume my functions as President of the Council.

I have been authorized to make the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"The Security Council stresses the need for a comprehensive strategy to encourage the establishment of peace and stability in Somalia through the collaborative efforts of all stakeholders in the fields of the political process, security sector building, humanitarian relief, protection of civilians, human rights, socio-economic development, counter-terrorism and combating piracy. The Council reiterates its grave concern at the continued instability in Somalia, which has led to a multitude of problems, including terrorism, acts of piracy and armed robbery at sea off the coast of Somalia, and a dire humanitarian situation.

"The Security Council reaffirms its support for the Djibouti Agreement as the basis for the resolution of the conflict in Somalia. It urges the Transitional Federal Institutions to broaden and consolidate the reconciliation process, intensify efforts to complete the outstanding transitional tasks, and prioritize the timely completion of the constitution and the delivery of basic services to the population, paving the way for a better future for Somalis, including their economic and social development and the realization of their human rights.

"The Security Council welcomes the work of Mr. Augustine Mahiga, Special Representative of the Secretary-General, to support the Somali people in reaching agreement on post-transitional arrangements in consultation with the international community. It strongly urges the Transitional Federal Institutions to engage in this process in a more constructive, open and transparent manner that promotes broader political dialogue and participation in line with the spirit of the Djibouti Agreement. The Council requests the Secretary-General to assess, in his regular reports delivered to the Council before the end of the transitional period, the respect for these principles. These principles are essential for future cooperation between the international community and the Transitional Federal Institutions. The Security Council notes that the transitional period will end in August 2011. The Council regrets the decision by the Transitional Federal Parliament to extend its mandate unilaterally, without carrying out necessary reforms, and urges the Transitional Federal Institutions to refrain from any further unilateral action.

"The Security Council expresses its strong support for the work of Special Representative of the Secretary-General Mahiga, welcomes his efforts and those of the United Nations, and calls for an increased United Nations presence and increased coherence of United Nations activities in Somalia.

"The Security Council affirms the importance of the development of Government institutions and the strengthening of civilian capacity-building across Somalia, including ensuring the participation of women in public life, the prevention and resolution of conflict, peacebuilding and socio-economic reconstruction. The Council urges the international community to mobilize additional support to the Transitional Federal Government and local and regional administrations in that regard.

"The Security Council expresses its serious concern about the worsening humanitarian situation in Somalia, and the impact of the current drought, which have left over 2 million Somalis in urgent need of humanitarian assistance and have resulted in significantly higher flows of refugees to neighbouring countries.

"The Security Council also expresses concern at the continuing decline in humanitarian funding for Somalia. The Security Council commends the work of humanitarian aid workers and urges all Member States to contribute to current and future consolidated humanitarian appeals.

"The Security Council strongly condemns the targeting and obstruction of the delivery of humanitarian aid by Al-Shabaab and other armed groups in Somalia and demands that all parties ensure full, safe and unhindered access for the timely delivery of humanitarian aid.

"The Security Council emphasizes the importance of strengthening the Somali security forces, including the development of effective command and control. While emphasizing that the Somalis hold the primary responsibility for achieving political stability, security and the rule of law, the Council urges Member States and regional and international organizations to contribute generously and promptly to the United Nations Trust Fund for the Somali security institutions, and to provide assistance to the Somali security forces.

"The Security Council recognizes the progress made by the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) and the Somali National Security Forces in consolidating security and stability in Mogadishu. The Council deeply regrets the loss of life in the recent fighting and recognizes the significant sacrifices made by AMISOM and the Somali National Security Forces. The Council expresses its sincere gratitude to the Governments of Burundi and Uganda for their commitment to AMISOM, and expresses its condolences to them and to the Transitional Federal Government and the Somali people.

"The Security Council condemns all attacks, including terrorist attacks on the Transitional Federal Government, AMISOM and the civilian population by armed opposition groups and foreign fighters, particularly Al-Shabaab.

"The Security Council stresses the importance of predictable, reliable and timely resources for AMISOM in order for it to better fulfil its mandate. The Security Council calls on the international community to make contributions urgently and without caveats to the United Nations Trust Fund for AMISOM or directly in support of AMISOM. It notes the recommendations on Somalia of the Africa Union Peace and Security Council of 15 October 2010 and underlines its intention to keep the situation under review. It encourages the full deployment of 4,000 additional AMISOM troops as authorized by Security Council resolution 1964 (2010) as soon as possible.

"The Security Council stresses the responsibility of all parties and armed groups in Somalia to comply with their obligations to protect the civilian population from the effects of hostilities, in particular by avoiding any indiscriminate or excessive use of force. The Security Council expresses deep concern about the continuing violations and abuses committed against children in Somalia by parties to the conflict and urges the immediate implementation of all conclusions of the Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict in Somalia.

"The Security Council remains gravely concerned about the threat posed by piracy and armed robbery off the coast of Somalia, especially by the extended range of the piracy threat into the western Indian Ocean, the increase in pirate capacities and the increasing violence by the pirates. The Security Council condemns in the strongest terms such violence, including hostage-taking, murder and other acts of violence against individuals. The Security Council recognizes that the ongoing instability in Somalia contributes to the problem of piracy and armed robbery, and stresses the need for a comprehensive response to tackle piracy and its underlying causes.

"The Security Council calls upon all Member States, in particular those in the region, to refrain from any action in contravention of the Somalia and Eritrea arms embargo and to take all necessary steps to hold violators accountable, and affirms the importance of enhancing the monitoring of the Somalia and Eritrea arms embargoes through persistent and vigilant investigation into the violations, bearing in mind that strict enforcement of the arms embargoes will improve the overall security situation in the region.

"The Security Council welcomes the endeavours of the African Union, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development and other regional organizations to promote peace and stability in Somalia and reiterates its full support to AMISOM and its troop- and police-

contributing countries, especially Burundi and Uganda."

This statement will be issued as a document of the Security Council under the symbol S/PRST/2011/6.

I now give the floor to the representative of Turkey.

Mr. Apakan (Turkey): I wish to congratulate the Chinese presidency for organizing this open debate. I also want to thank the Secretary-General, the Prime Minister of Somalia, and the Special Representative for Somalia of the African Union Commission, Mr. Diarra, for their statements. We welcome and strongly support the elements contained in the presidential statement (S/PRST/2011/6). I shall highlight a few important points. The longer version of my statement will be circulated.

Turkey is very concerned about the continuation of the cycle of violence in Somalia. Likewise, we are alarmed by the humanitarian crisis.

We commend the crucial role played by the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM). We thank all troop-contributing countries, especially Uganda and Burundi, and convey our condolences for their loss. We believe that AMISOM should be provided with adequate, predictable and sustainable funding so that it can effectively implement its mandate. To that end, we think that the Security Council should consider authorizing an enhanced support package, which would be drawn from United Nations assessed contributions.

Turkey believes that military means should be coupled with steps to be taken on the political front. First and foremost, the Transitional Federal Institutions should redouble their efforts to reach out to other groups and try to engage them in the Djibouti political process and strengthen their relations with local authorities in the country. The pending tasks, especially the drafting of the new constitution, should be completed after August, when the transitional period ends.

Turkey, in principle, supports the idea of the extension of the transitional period as long as decisions to that effect are taken in a coordinated and consensual fashion. We welcome the efforts of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Mahiga, and the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) to reach compromise solutions on the matter.

We appreciate that Prime Minister Mohamed and his Government are truly committed to achieving the targets for a functional State with all of its structures in place. We believe that it is incumbent upon the international partners of Somalia to empower the TFG, especially by providing the necessary financial resources and refraining from taking steps that could undermine the authority of the central Government.

The Special Representative of the Secretary-General and head of the United Nations Political Office for Somalia, Ambassador Mahiga, has the full support of Turkey. We praise the constructive efforts of the African Union and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development towards finding a durable solution to the problem in Somalia.

On 21 March, Turkey will chair the eighth plenary meeting of the international Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia. With the recent increase in hijackings and the escalation of violence by pirates, there is an urgent need for a strategic plan to tackle and systematically combat piracy.

We believe that the upcoming plenary will provide a good opportunity to discuss this issue in a holistic manner. We also believe that today's meeting will provide valuable inputs for our discussions within the Contact Group. In that sense, we believe that the two meetings are mutually reinforcing.

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): I now give the floor to the representative of Ethiopia.

Mr. Alemu (Ethiopia): I wish to thank you, Sir, on behalf of the States members of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) for the initiative to hold this debate. We are pleased to see the presence at this meeting of His Excellency the Prime Minister of the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) of Somalia. We fully subscribe to the statement delivered by Ambassador Diarra, for which I thank him heartily.

The situation in Somalia continues to be critical. The reasons are obvious. First, the end of the transition period is fast approaching. We realize that those tasks that the TFG needed to carry out during the transition period have not been completed. For this and other reasons, it is impossible to say that the TFG has discharged all of its responsibilities. However, allowing the transition period to lapse and thereby allowing the collapse of the Djibouti peace process

cannot be an option. That explains why IGAD and the African Union (AU) have taken the steps they have. It is now a matter of greatest urgency that the TFG carry out those tasks as speedily as possible.

Secondly, we have seen over the past few days that it is entirely possible for the TFG to enhance its viability and to make progress in the security area, which is absolutely critical as the minimum requirement for everything that the TFG has to do in other sectors. The momentum generated recently needs to be maintained and expanded. This is very critical, both for raising the credibility of the TFG and for conveying the message that extremism is far from being the wave of the future. The more the momentum is sustained and additional gains are made, the fewer the chances the enemies of peace will have to benefit from the fear they have instilled in the minds of citizens.

From this perspective as well, the current situation in Somalia is indeed very critical. There are opportunities that should be seized. The question is: Are all stakeholders ready? It does not help much to harp on the weaknesses of the TFG. But, still, it is important for the TFG to ensure the full implementation of the 15 March 2010 agreement with Ahlu Sunnah Wal Jama'a, particularly in the security area, as well as to strengthen its cooperation with all those committed to peace and the Djibouti peace process. We want to underline how critical it is to adhere to the principle that the Djibouti Agreement remains the basis for consolidating the process of national reconciliation in Somalia.

However, a great deal more is expected from others, including from the Council. Resolution 1964 (2010) only partially addressed the request submitted to the Council by the African Union regarding the authorized strength of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), on an enhanced support package for the Mission from United Nations assessed contribution, and on the imposition of a naval blockade of and no-fly zone over Somalia, as well as effective implementation of sanctions on spoilers. This is becoming ever more urgent, including as a result of the worsening humanitarian situation in the country. The needy should not remain hostage to those who brutalize them.

I am pleased to note that the IGAD countries continue to do their share. In this regard, we are deeply grateful to Uganda and Burundi for the sacrifices they have been making. We are encouraged by the enhanced cooperation that we have managed to create between AMISOM, the United Nations Political Office for Somalia and IGAD, as exemplified by the memorandum of understanding signed between them in April last year, providing for enhanced consultation and coordination, which became the basis for a joint regional strategy agreed in February of this year. Perhaps, this might serve as a template for other regions.

I wish to conclude by thanking you personally, Sir, for this very welcome initiative, by appealing to the Council to give the Somalia situation far greater attention than it has received to date, and by extending our gratitude to all States that have rendered assistance to the TFG, AMISOM, IGAD and the AU.

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): I now give the floor to the representative of Italy.

Mr. Ragaglini (Italy): I wish to thank you for convening this timely open debate on the situation in Somalia. I thank the Secretary-General, the Prime Minister of Somalia and the Special Representative of the African Union for Somalia for their statements, to which I listened attentively.

Italy fully aligns itself with the statement to be delivered by the head of the delegation of the European Union, and I would like to add a few remarks in my national capacity.

Italy continues to support the invaluable endeavours of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Somalia, Ambassador Mahiga, and remains fully engaged in all the relevant multilateral forums, as well as bilaterally, in promoting the Somali peace process. Indeed, Somalia continues to represent a risk in terms of worldwide terrorism, international organized crime and humanitarian crises.

The Islamic extremist group Al-Shabaab is still a serious threat to the Transitional Federal Institutions in Mogadishu, to the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) and, above all, to all Somalis, who have been suffering now for some 20 years. The ongoing drought could easily turn into a humanitarian catastrophe. In all regions controlled by Al-Shabaab, international aid is barred, while food and water provided by United Nations agencies in the territories beyond their reach are at risk of running short. Piracy

remains a clear and present danger to a widening area of the Indian Ocean.

Somalia needs stronger international efforts for stabilization and security and to prevent the risk of terrorism spilling over. Like other countries, Italy strongly supports AMISOM and the Somali security forces and Police in their strategy to establish effective control of the territory. We are also engaged in sustaining the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) in its reconstruction, and thus in implementing a civilian strategy of economic and social recovery.

The European Union Training Mission, in which Italy has been taking part since its inception, is working well. The United States and Italy have renewed their financial support for 8,000 additional soldiers. This, however, is not enough. The TFG's security forces remain in dire need of a serious overhaul of their organization, command and control.

The Somali Prime Minister has today renewed his appeals for stronger political and financial assistance to the TFG from the international community. The short time left until the natural end of the transitional mandate, despite the ongoing discussions on its extension, calls for immediate action. Addressing the need for a new institutional set-up following August, through concrete actions and a coordinated approach by the international community, remains crucial.

Key international actors seem to share the notion that the open-ended political outreach efforts set by the Djibouti peace process need to be intensified. Thus, the role of local entities must also be increased if the legitimacy and representation of any institutional architecture is to be secured. To this end, we advocate increased cooperation between the TFG and the local administrations.

To encourage this enhanced cooperation and better coordination between the central institutions and local Powers, the international community, while remaining steadfast in its support for the TFG, should guarantee greater assistance to the stable regions that have not fallen under the control of Al-Shabaab, such as Puntland, Galguduud and Somaliland.

Italy deems it necessary to have stronger and urgent international efforts to help the TFG tackle the serious problem of piracy off the coast of Somalia, which has grown in scope and intensity. Despite the ongoing efforts of various navies in the area, piracy remains a major threat, and the situation has deteriorated. We have been actively participating in the European Union Atalanta and the NATO Ocean Shield naval operations, and Italy is keen to hold the command of the NATO fleet in the second half of 2011.

Italy continues to prioritize the prosecution and detention of captured pirates, which represent the most logical consequence of the huge patrolling effort and a necessary requirement for an effective fight against piracy. We therefore support the recommendation put forward in the report of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Legal Issues related to Piracy off the Coast of Somalia (S/2011/30, annex) to create an extraterritorial Somali court with an international component, and would welcome the adoption of Security Council measures to that effect.

Furthermore, Italy supports the call for increased efforts to control illicit financial flows linked to piracy off the coast of Somalia, and is willing to facilitate discussion among interested members of the Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia on the appropriate way forward. We are also ready to lead an international effort to develop actionable proposals for disrupting piracy-related financial networks and to report our findings to the plenary meeting of the Contact Group.

Somalian instability represents a threat for the region and fosters a multitude of problems, including terrorism. As a matter of urgency, the international community must come together on a comprehensive strategy to encourage development, peace and security in Somalia.

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): There are a number of speakers remaining on my list for this meeting. I therefore intend, with the concurrence of the members of the Council, to suspend the meeting until 3 p.m.

The meeting was suspended at 1.05 p.m.